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The public broadcasting system in the United States has flourished with the help of public and private investments, and has created the nation's largest virtual classroom. Because of public broadcasting, innovative and educational content is readily available and at the fingertips of teachers, students, parents, seniors, and many others.



Federal support for public broadcasting not only sustains vital educational content, but also helps provide locally produced and focused programming and in-depth reporting. Approximately 70% of federal funds appropriated to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting go directly to the

more than 1,300 public television and radio stations across the country, supporting 24,000 local jobs. Every federal dollar invested in public broadcasting is leveraged by local stations to raise \$6 more on their own. In addition to specifically tailored, local coverage, public broadcasting dedicates around 30 percent of its coverage to international affairs, versus the 19 percent average of commercial networks.

The public broadcasting system also provides news, education, entertainment, and enriching content for 170 million Americans, including many in rural areas. In these rural areas, public broadcasting stations may be the only source of free and high-quality programming tailored to meet each community's local needs. For many of these rural stations, funds appropriated by Congress account for up to half of their total budget, and in some cases more. This is a gap that cannot be closed by increased ad revenues or donor support.

When asked why he thought federal funding for public broadcasting was so important, the renowned documentarian Ken Burns said, "Federal funding for public broadcasting will not help with the defense of America, but it's part of what makes America worth defending." Public broadcasting provides some of the best science, public affairs, and children's programming found on television and radio. Nearly 8 in 10 voters – 79 percent – believe that public broadcasting should receive the same amount of government funding or more than it currently does.

Congressman Blumenauer is a long-time champion of public broadcasting, founding the [Public Broadcasting Caucus](#) in the 106th Congress to ensure the continued services of local public television and radio stations. He led efforts in the 112th Congress to [preserve public broadcasting against partisan attacks](#), fending off three bills aimed at defunding public broadcasting, and ultimately restored full funding for our public broadcasting system. In 2011, he won both the Champion of Public Broadcasting Award from American Public Television Stations (APTS) and the Lowell Award from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) for extraordinary efforts in public broadcasting, leadership at the national level, and education and professional development.

Blumenauer believes that without continued federal support, public broadcasting would lose its unique character that so many enjoy and have come to depend on and trust, and that the public broadcasting format of in-depth coverage cannot survive without federal seed money. If it could, a similar, commercially funded station would already exist, given public broadcasting's large and growing audience. He is also deeply concerned about the impact of reduced funding for public broadcasting stations in rural communities. Federal support is critical to the survival

of these small community radio stations.